

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2291

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AORG

SUBJ: UN PROGRAM BUDGET - REQUEST BY SOVIETS FOR MAJOR
CONTRIBUTOR COOPERATION

1. ANATOLY V. GRODSKY (SOVIET MEMBER OF ACABQ AND COUNSELOR IN SOVIET MISSION) APPROACHED MISOFF STOTTLEMYER (US MEMBER OF ACABQ) YESTERDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, SAYING THAT HE WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY. GRODSKY BEGAN CONVERSATION WITH BRIEF RUNDOWN OF INCREASING UN PROGRAM BUDGET AND INCREASED BURDEN THIS PLACES ON MEMBER STATES. IN ORDER TO CHECK THIS TREND GRODSKY SAID SOVIETS WOULD APPRECIATE USG VIEWS AND IN PARTICULAR WHETHER USG WOULD JOIN WITH SOVIETS AND OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS IN MAKING DEMARCHE TO SECRETARY GENERAL IN ORDER TO EXPRESS CONCERN AND TO ESTABLISH BUDGETARY CEILING FOR NEXT BIENNIUM. SOVIETS, ACCORDING TO GRODSKY AND LATER CONFIRMED BY MISOFF, WERE MAKING SAME APPROACH TO OTHER MEMBERS OF SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS (INCLUDING JAPAN AND FRG). SOVIET HOPE WAS THAT EIGHT OR TEN DELEGATIONS COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON HOLDING DOWN UN BUDGET AS WELL AS JOIN IN DEMARCHE TO SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. GRODSKY REQUESTED THAT MISOFF TRANSMIT HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS TO DEPARTMENT AND THAT WE PLAY BACK TO HIM AT AN EARLY
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DATE OUR REACTION TO SOVIET IDEAS.

3. COMMENT: WE THINK IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR US AND OTHER LARGE CONTRIBUTORS TO COLLABORATE OPENLY WITH SOVIETS ON THIS ISSUE, PARTICULARLY IN WAKE OF SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION WHERE CONTRAST WAS OBVIOUS BETWEEN OUR RESPONSIVENESS TO AND SOVIET ALOOFNESS FROM THIRD WORLD CONCERNS. WHATEVER OUR REMAINING DIFFERENCES WITH LDCS, THEY INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZED THAT SOVIETS ARE IRRELEVANT TO THEIR NEEDS. LET US THEREFORE KEEP THE SOVIETS AT A DISTANCE UNLESS JOINING FORCES WITH THEM SERVES AN OVERRIDING PURPOSE. IN ANY CASE, A JOINT DEMARCHE WITH SOVIETS AND OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO SECRETARY GENERAL TO ATTEMPT TO HOLD UN BUDGET DOWN AND TO ESTABLISH BUDGETARY CEILINGS MIGHT RESULT IN COUNTER PRESSURES BY LDC MAJORITY AND SOME OTHERS (E.G. DUTCH AND NORDICS) ON SECRETARY GENERAL.

4. SINCE WE HAVE AN ESTABLISHED DAY-TO-DAY WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH SECRETARIAT AT ALL LEVELS, HAVE MEMBER ON ACABQ, AND ARE ABLE TO EXERCISE INFLUENCE IN UNGA FIFTH COMMITTEE ON BUDGETARY QUESTIONS, MISSION BELIEVES BEST APPROACH IS FOR US AND FRIENDLY DELS TO CONTINUE TO MAKE INFORMAL APPROACHES TO SECRETARIAT DURING PROGRAM BUDGET FORMULATION STAGE. ALSO, WE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITH OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS THOUGH ACABQ AND FIFTH COMMITTEE BEHIND THE SCENE, BUT AVOID FORMAL GROUPINGS SUCH AS SOVIETS SUGGEST.
MOYNIHAN

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